

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1010

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TAGS: PDEV PINT IC

SUBJECT: 1100TH ANNIVERSARY - HOSTS AT JULY 28 LUNCH

FOLLOWING IS BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON RECENTLY ELECTED ALTHING (PARLIAMENT) SPEAKERS AND ALTERNATE SPEAKERS, WHO WILL HOST LUNCH AT THINGVELLIR JULY 28:

1. UNITED ALTHING (JOINT SITTING OF BOTH HOUSES)

SPEAKER: GYLFI TH. GISLASON (GEES'-LA-SON). CHAIRMAN OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SINCE 1946, HAS HELD VARIOUS MINISTERIAL POSTS. PRO-NATO AND FAVORS RETENTION OF U.S. MANNED DEFENSE FORCE. FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE WITH U.S. OFFICIALS.

FIRST ALTERNATE SPEAKER: EDVARD SIGURDSSON (SEE'-GURTH-SON). MEMBER OF LEFTIST PEOPLES ALLIANCE AND LIFETIME HARD-CORE COMMUNIST. LONG ACTIVE IN LABOR AFFAIRS AND CURRENTLY PRESIDENT OF ICELANDIC GENERAL AND TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION (UNSKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED).

SECOND ALTERNATE SPEAKER: VILHJALMUR HJALMARSSON
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(HYAHL'-MAR-SON). VETERAN PROGRESSIVE PARTY

MEMBER AND STAUNCH PARTY LOYALIST. STRONG
ADVOCATE OF HIGHER TAXATION AND IMPROVED
REGIONAL PROGRAMS FOR BENEFIT OF OUTLYING AREAS.

2. THE UPPER HOUSE

SPEAKER: ASGEIR BJARNASON (BYART'-NA-SON).
PROGRESSIVE PARTY MEMBER SINCE 1959; FARMER
FROM WEST DISTRICT. CONSERVATIVE IN OUTLOOK,
PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS.

FIRST ALTERNATE SPEAKER: EGGERT THORSTEINSSON

(THOR'-STAYN-SON). SOCIAL DEMOCRAT, EX-
MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND OF FISHERIES.
FORMERLY LEADING ANTI-COMMUNIST LABOR LEADER WHO
RETAINS CLOSE TIES TO LABOR MOVEMENT. STRONGLY
REFLECTS PARTY'S PRO-NATO STANCE.

SECOND ALTERNATE SPEAKER: HELGI SELJAN (SEL'-YAN).
SECOND TERM PEOPLES ALLIANCE MEMBER. DEDICATED
SOCIALIST, RELATIVE MODERATE WITHIN PA.

3. THE LOWER HOUSE

SPEAKER: GILS GUDMUNDSSON (GUTH'-MUND-SON).
MEMBER OF PEOPLES ALLIANCE. FORMER TEACHER AND
JOURNALIST. ACTIVE IN LEFT-WING POLITICS SINCE
YOUTH. OUTSPOKEN OPPONENT OF DEFENSE FORCE AND
CRITIC OF US FOREIGN POLICY GENERALLY.

FIRST ALTERNATE SPEAKER: INGVAR GISLASON (GEES'-LA-SON).
PROGRESSIVE PARTY MEMBER SINCE 1961. LAWYER
FROM AKUREYRI WHO HAS LONG BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH
COOP MOVEMENT.

SECOND ALTERNATE SPEAKER: BENEDIKT GRONDAL (GRUN'-DAHL).
DEPUTY LEADER OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. SUPPORTER
OF STRONG NATO AND WESTERN TIES BUT WISHES TO
SEE ICELAND DEMILITARIZED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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